

Silicon Times Report
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- | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| - CPU Industry Report | - About Sen. Hatch!?! | - Computer Crime Worsens |
| - Office Talk 1.5 Review | - Intel SPOOKS Wall St. | - SONY Web Site #1 in FUN |
| - Intel Names NEW Chips | - Call THE COPS!! | - Bandicoot a Success Story |
| - Girls Will be Girls! | - People Talking | - Classics & Gaming |

LUCENT TECHNOLOGY SPEEDS DATA OVER LIGHT
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FREEDOM IN HONG KONG THREATENED BY ATTACKS ON FREE SPEECH!

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The Publisher, Staff & Editors

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Results: 03/01/98: three of six numbers with no matches

From the Editor's Desk...

It that time again. this has been a very quiet week. other than Senator Orrin Hatch trying to make a name for himself. I have watched this particular politician in operation for almost ten years now. Ask Ollie North about him. I might add; I find his antics amusing and at the same time pitiful. Here's a man who has obviously enjoyed the benefits of a good education yet he seemingly throws it all to the wind in his very obvious "politiking". Why this man and a few of his cohorts seemingly refuse to attack the real issues hurting this country's young is beyond me. Hatch and friends have been aware of the dangers of poisonous foods, DRUGS, tobacco, patent medicine and quack Doctors for years yet they are consistently soft spoken when it comes to talking about or doing anything real about it or the USDA & FDA. They can however, jump Bill Gate's bones about the obvious successes of Himself and Microsoft.

Microsoft. once thought of as a "flash in the pan".. by the pinstripes at IBM. Ironical isn't it? Gates kept right on going. Today, the efforts of Gates and Microsoft both directly and indirectly feed hundreds of thousands of the world's population. Yet Hatch and Co., feel compelled to try to hurt the wonderful opportunities Microsoft offers to all who are interested. Maybe "hizzoner" is concerned Microsoft may make too many millionaires and there won't be any "dolts" left to do his bidding? I pray to the heavens above the good voters in the wonderful State of Utah send this misinformed, grandstanding politician a loud and clear message stating that "they like many of us enjoy making more than just living." Its sorta like having the bonds of mortal servitude removed and this guy looks like the "black suited beast" (Simon Ligree) who's trying to make it all go back the way it was.

Don't get me wrong. I'm not against a strong trust busting government. But it hurts when you see the super giants in agriculture, telecommunications, catv, construction, garbage removal, etc., left alone to continue to plunder and pillage. Sen. Hatch. my good man perhaps you could tell us and the rest of the country exactly who is the driving and controlling force behind the trash removal and reclamation conglomerate called

BFI??? They're in almost every city in the nation!! If that's not a HUGE MONOPOLY.. Sen. Hatch, BFI DWARFS Microsoft.. why is it you don't have the principals of BFI in front of you and the Nation while you put on your show?? Oops, I mean investigation into a possible monopoly? How about Senator?? Wanna take on the Bull by the Horns?? Try ConAgra. Bechtel oh, I could go on and on and name a few others. But BFI and perhaps ConAgra would be great for openers. Senator Hatch??? Oh, Senator Hatch??? Hmmm.

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STReport is now ready to offer much more in the way of serving the Networks, Online Services and Internet's vast, fast growing site list and userbase. We now have our very own WEB, FTP and NewsGroup Sites, do stop by and have a look see. Since We've received numerous requests to receive STReport from a wide variety of Internet addressees, we were compelled to put together an Internet distribution/mailling list for those who wished to receive STReport on a regular basis, the file is ZIPPED, then UUENCODED. Unfortunately, we've also received a number of opinions that the UUENCODING was a real pain to deal with. You'll be pleased to know you are able to download STReport directly from our very own FTP SERVER or WEB Site. While there, be sure to join our STR AutoMailer list which allows a choice of either ASCII or Graphics Rich HTML.

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Compiled by: Dana P. Jacobson

Wang Buys Olivetti Unit

BILLERICA, Mass., Mar. 2 (UPI) -- Wang says its has acquired the wholly-owned information technology solutions and service subsidiary of Olivetti S.p.A. for approximately \$390 million. Wang said it will expand its presence in key European and Asian markets through the addition of Olsy's strong local operations. The Olivetti Group will retain an interest in network solutions and services and become Wang's largest shareholder at 18.6 percent following the issuance of shares in connection with the transaction.

Under the agreement, expected to close before the end of March 1998, Wang will buy from Olivetti 100 percent of the Olsy Group, in exchange for 8,750,000 common stock equivalents at \$27.875 a share. Wang will also buy 5 million stock appreciation rights (SARs), which gives Olivetti value for the increase in the market price above \$30 per share at any time from March 2001 to March 2005.

Wang will also pay \$70 million in cash at the closing, subject to adjustment based on the consolidated net equity of Olsy as of the closing date. Under the agreement, Wang will also acquire a 19.9 percent stake in Olivetti Ricerca, the Italian consortium supplying R&D services to both the IT and telecom sectors.

Texas Instruments To Sell Acer All TI-Acer Stake

Texas Instruments and Acer Inc. announced that TI will sell all its stakes in Texas Instrument-Acer Inc to Acer. Under the agreement, Acer will continue to run the current operations of TI-Acer, which will be renamed Acer Semiconductor Manufacturing Inc., Acer said in a statement. TI currently holds a 33.34% stake in TI-Acer, a joint venture set up by TI and Acer in 1989. Acer did not reveal the cost of its acquisition. Local press said the current share price of the unlisted TI-Acer is \$34-35 per share.

Microsoft: Some Curbs on Internet Content Providers

Microsoft Corp. said it does restrict some Internet content providers on its homepage from paying to be posted on the site of rival web browser maker Netscape Communications. "There is, in the platinum agreement...there is a period of time which if you are in our channel guide then you are restricted from paying to be in the Netscape channel guide during that period of time," Microsoft chief executive Bill Gates said.

At a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on competition in the software industry, Gates was questioned repeatedly about whether Microsoft placed restrictions on the Internet content providers it did business with. Gates said a person clicking on one of those providers in the Microsoft channel guide would arrive at a page that made reference only to Microsoft's Internet Explorer

browser. But beyond that single page, a content provider was free to promote the Netscape Navigator browser on its site or exploit any of the features contained in other browsers.

Hacker Crashes Thousands of Windows Computers

An unknown hacker caused thousands of Windows-based university and government computers to crash on the eve of Senate testimony by Microsoft Corp. Chairman Bill Gates, authorities said Wednesday. The Monday night attack affected nine of NASA's 10 major offices and universities, including the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the University of California at Berkeley. "Basically, what happened is it locked the system," said a spokesman. While the attack did not cause any significant loss of data, users were confronted with the so-called "blue screen of death," which appears with an error message when Windows crashes. The only solution was to restart the computer.

Computer Crime Getting Worse According to Watchdog Group

Computer crime is booming and few people are doing enough to protect themselves against assaults ranging from stolen laptops to high-tech Internet heists worth millions, a watchdog group said Wednesday. In its third annual survey, the Computer Security Institute said 520 specialists polled at U.S. corporations, government agencies, financial institutions and universities reported that the wired world was becoming increasingly dangerous. "Sixty-four percent of respondents report computer security breaches within the last 12 months," the survey said. "This represents a dramatic increase of 16% over the 1997 survey results."

Industry Coalition Wants Relaxed U.S. Encryption Rules

Companies and advocacy groups launched a broad media and lobbying campaign Wednesday to oppose strict U.S. export limits on computer encryption, an increasingly critical technology that scrambles information to enhance security. Americans for Computer Privacy said they opposed new limits on computer data-scrambling technologies and sought relaxed exports. "We would not turn over the keys to our front doors to the government. Why should we have to turn over the keys to our computers?" said the legal counsel to the group. He said the Clinton administration indicated it would discuss encryption with the group.

CA to let Computer Sciences tender expire

Software maker Computer Associates International Inc. said Thursday it would let its \$108-a-share tender offer for Computer Sciences Corp. expire as scheduled on March 16. CA Chairman Charles Wang, in a letter to CSC Chairman Van Honeycutt, said CA would have been willing to offer up to \$114 a share, but CSC refused to negotiate. Wang accused CSC of waging "a campaign of unlawful roadblocks and baseless mudslinging lawsuits" against CA.

Wall St. stocks tumble by close as Intel spooks

Stocks tumbled Thursday after an earnings warning from tech giant Intel Corp sent a chill through Wall Street. Although investors

were relieved that today's dent in the market's record-breaking gains was less-than-expected, analysts warned that more red flags about profits were likely. The Dow closed off 95 points at 8444. On the NYSE, declines trounced advances by three-to-one on volume of 646 million shares. Technology-laden Nasdaq fared worse than the Dow, shedding 48 points, or 2.72%, to close at 1711. The long bond, fearing a stronger-than-expected non-farm payroll number tomorrow, shed 19/32 to yield 6.06%. The dollar ended New York trade at 1.8333 marks, up from 1.8105 at the open. The greenback was higher at 127.76 yen, off a high of 127.94 but up from 127.35 at the open.

Clear Channel to buy More Group

Clear Channel Comm. has agreed to acquire British outdoor advertising company More Group PLC for about 446 million pounds (US\$735.7 million). Clear said it is offering 1,042.5 pence for each More share, which closed at 834 pence Wednesday. More employs over 1,000 people in 22 countries and operates 90,000 fixed advertising panels worldwide.

Attacks on public radio threaten Hong Kong freedom

Demands by pro-Beijing politicians to stifle free speech on Hong Kong public radio pose a threat to the territory's media independence and its "one country, two systems" autonomy from China, political analysts said Friday. The government-funded but proudly independent broadcaster Radio Television Hong Kong was shaken Thursday by a stormy debate that arose after political king-maker Xu Simin, at a parliamentary meeting in Beijing, attacked RTHK as anti-government and a remnant of British colonialism. Analysts said the fact that the question of Hong Kong freedoms was raised in Beijing and went unprotested by the territory's China-appointed leader Tung Chee-hwa could be seen as a threat to the two-systems arrangement.

Senator Hatch not through with Microsoft

Microsoft CEO Bill Gates has finished his congressional testimony, but Sen. Orrin Hatch - who chaired the hearing Tuesday - is still looking closely at the Redmond, Wash. software giant. The Utah Republican asked Gates for a letter that will help open the door for Senate Judiciary Committee investigators to talk to many of Microsoft's customers, and Gates agreed. In addition, experts say the hearings may have an effect at the Justice Department's antitrust division, which is considering bring broad new charges against Microsoft. The letter Hatch requested is needed because Microsoft has nondisclosure agreements with its customers preventing them from disclosing confidential materials.

Xerox to acquire XLConnect, parent for \$415 million

Xerox said it is buying XLConnect Solutions and its parent company Intelligent Electronics in an all-cash deal for \$415 million, capturing a slice of the fast-growing information-technology services field. Xerox will pay \$20 a share for the 20% of stock that is publicly held in XLConnect, and will buy INEL, which holds 80% of XLConnect, for \$7.60 a share. The deal would be neutral to Xerox's earnings in 1998, and positive from 1999.

Intel names chips for low-cost PCs

Intel Corp. announced a brand name for its upcoming processor targeted to the low-cost PC market: Celeron. Last month, Intel said it would introduce a processor, using the same Intel P6 architecture on which the Pentium II processor is based, aimed at what Intel calls the "basic PC" market. Intel said the first Celeron chip will be announced in April, with systems available for purchase by mid-year. Intel has not had a big presence in the fast-growing low-cost arena. Intel said its Celeron processor is targeted at PCs costing between \$800 to \$1,200, which provide a base level of functionality with limited expandability.

Hungarian government seeks to tap mobile phones

Hungary's government, stung by public calls for better security after a spate of murders in Budapest, said Thursday it would ensure mobile phone taps were part of a planned package of anti-crime measures. Hungarian police have complained for years their fight against organized crime was hampered by the fact many suspects communicated with mobile phones in calls that could not be traced without the help of the mobile phone providers. The companies have said they would let government agencies tap mobile phone conversations but were unwilling to pay for installing the necessary equipment.

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Where is a COP when you Want one?

an opinion by R.F. Mariano

This came through the Email last week in a blanket forward... The lowlife that's doing this should be ..thrown under the jail.

From: CFL ID Sales [Fakeidsales@mindless.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 01, 1998 2:49 AM
To: Fakeidsales@mindless.com
Subject: Create A New Identity

WHY PAY OVER 50 DOLLARS FOR A FAKE ID???

Many people believe that it is very difficult to make a good fake ID. This is absolutely not the case. I've made a countless number of ID's in the past. It's VERY easy to do. Now that I'm 21 and I no longer need ID's, I want to show YOU how to do it. I want YOU to have as much fun I did.

I want YOU to be able to get into clubs.
I want YOU to be able to buy beer and liquor at will.
I want YOU to be admired by your peers.
I want YOU to have an amazing money making oportunity.

When I made ID's, I charged my clients anywhere from 40 to 100 dollars for each ID they wanted made. Sure, there were other kids around that charged less, but my clients wanted a QUALITY product so that they wouldn't have to worry about being rejected by bouncers or clerks. Guess how much it cost me to make each ID.... 2 Bucks!!!! I had a lot of money in high school, a lot more than my friends who were busting their butts for 5 or 6 dollars an hour at some lame job. I've had my fun, now it's YOUR turn. I'm going to give you the tools that you need to do what I did.

The FAKE ID BIBLE is the manual I've written that outlines over 5 different methods of making fake ID. The instructions are simple to follow, and the book is fun to read. Most importantly, I GUARANTEE your success. I WANT YOU TO SUCCEED.

To order the FAKE ID BIBLE, send a check or money order for 19.95 to :

CFL ID Sales
Dept. 2
PO Box 63700
Tallahassee, FL 32313

Email FakeID@mindless.com

Please state your date of birth with your order, you must be over 18 to purchase "The Fake ID Bible"

I thank you, and hope you look forward to all the fun you'll have with your new ID's

Disclaimer- CFL Sales Assumes no responsibility for the actions of those who purchase "The Fake ID Bible". "The Fake ID Bible" is intended as a tool for Liquor license holders so that they may be more familiar with the various types of ID cards being produced. "The Fake ID Bible" is not intended for use with any State or Government documents.

Disclaimer?? It's a twisted load of hot air trying to offer justification for breaking the law and encouraging others to do the same. I cannot believe this junk is permitted to go on. You know there will be some fools and some youngsters that'll "go for this nonsense". It, in turn will give cause to some poor hapless store clerk being grabbed for selling beer or cigarettes to minors. Or, better yet. a kid getting drunk and driving the family chariot through someone's front room. I'd hate to think of the dire consequences if the kid was in a serious collision involving injuries or death.

Why are clowns like the fecal matter that sent the above out allowed to continue? Is the almighty buck that important to the ISP this sleaze is operating through? I hope not. This is so obvious yet here, in Jacksonville Fl., they can go to the extreme of setting up a guy for having alleged kiddie porn on his hard drive. Here's an easy one for law enforcement. the above has even given a postal address. What's your take on this trash?? Let's hear from you!

EDUPAGE STR Focus Keeping the users informed

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Contents

New Interagency Center To Protect Networks	Culprits Of Pentagon Computer
	Break-Ins Caught
Federal Gov't To Spend \$50-Million On Digital Libraries	European Privacy Rules Will Challenge U.S. Practices
AOL Teams Up To Wire Europe	FTC Conducts Internet Privac Survey
Working To Solve The Information Gap	IRS Likely To Fall Short Of Y2K Fix
Newton Falls To Earth	Europeans Tell U.S. To Include Them
	In Internet Planning
Gates Says Government Actions Hampers osoft's Ability To Innovate	Computer Sciences Seeks "White Micr Knight"
Microsoft Softens Position	Where Is A Fancy Laptop Just Another Bag? On Delta Airlines
Olivetti Sells Computer Services Subsidiary	High-Tech Partnerships Urged

To Wang
UPS Gets Into Electronic Shipping

Lucent Technology Speeds Data Over

Computer Sciences Sues To Block Bid

Light
Cell Phones Can Interfere With Auto

Girls Will Be Girls

Systems
Chip-Tracking Device Could Foil
Thieves

Federal Prosecutors Indict Internet
Gambling Operators

Corporate Web Sites Need Broad
Appeal

NEW INTERAGENCY CENTER TO PROTECT NETWORKS

Computer experts from the U.S. Defense and Justice Departments and the Secret Service are combining their efforts to fight electronic break-ins and sabotage of the nation's telephone systems, electric utilities and digital networks. Attorney General Janet Reno unveiled the new National Infrastructure Protection Center, which also will work closely with private-sector technicians, on Friday. An FBI survey last year found that businesses had lost more than \$100 million due to computer-based sabotage and fraud. (Wall Street Journal 27 Feb 98)

CULPRITS OF PENTAGON COMPUTER BREAK-INS CAUGHT

The vandals responsible for hacking their way into 11 military computer systems and a number of university and federal research facilities (including Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Brookhaven National Laboratories, UC-Berkeley and the MIT fusion labs) have been identified as two Northern California teenage boys and some friends. On the advice of FBI agents, the Internet service provider used by the boys continued to allow their break-ins while their activities were surreptitiously monitored: "We decided to take a little risk. We let them play for a little while. We gave them enough rope and let them hang themselves." (Washington Post 28 Feb 98)

FEDERAL GOV'T TO SPEND \$50-MILLION ON DIGITAL LIBRARIES

The U.S. government plans to spend \$50 million over four or five years as part of its new Digital Library 2 project. The original Digital Library project started in 1994 with about half that amount of funding. The leader of the University of Illinois' digital library project notes that online technology is developing so rapidly, that proposals will have to "sound very grand and flaky" in order not to become obsolete before the five years is up. Federal agencies involved in the Digital Library 2 project include the National Science Foundation, the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, the Library of Congress, NASA, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the National Library of Medicine. (Chronicle of Higher Education 27 Feb 98)

EUROPEAN PRIVACY RULES WILL CHALLENGE U.S. PRACTICES

The European Union Data Protection Directive, which takes effect October 1998, will force U.S. companies doing business in Europe to change the way they handle routine data collection procedures. For instance, companies will need to get consent from their European employees before including them in corporate e-mail or phone directories, and in extreme cases, it may become illegal to carry a laptop computer containing a database with personal information on Europeans to the U.S. or other countries that are

deemed to lack "adequate" guarantees of privacy protection. The directive mandates that any personal data obtained by a company may be used only for the purposes for which it was collected unless consent is granted by the consumer for broader usage. If the data is misused in any way, governments will be able to seek injunctions, fines, and even criminal sanctions, and the individuals affected may sue for damages. (CIO Enterprise 15 Feb 98)

AOL TEAMS UP TO WIRE EUROPE

America Online is forming alliances with French telecommunications company Cegetel and French cable firm Canal Plus SA to work with AOL and partner Bertelsmann AG in targeting the European Internet market. The alliance will give AOL a more solid position in France, where its major competitor is the giant France Telecom SA. "Beating the telecoms is the issue for AOL," says a Dataquest analyst, "but it could prove near impossible." Under the new arrangement, AOL will have 200,000 subscribers in France, almost twice as many as France Telecom. (Wall Street Journal 27 Feb 98)

FTC CONDUCTS INTERNET PRIVACY SURVEY

The Federal Trade Commission is surveying 1,200 commercial Web sites to determine their policies for disclosing, collecting and using personal information; in a separate effort, the Commission is investigating whether sites are honoring their stated policies. The FTC can bring legal action against companies that fail to follow their posted policies. (New York Times 28 Feb 98)

WORKING TO SOLVE THE INFORMATION GAP

An increasing number of publications have been pointing out the growing disparity between the information-rich and information-poor. A good example is the new book by Fred T. Hofstetter ("Internet Literacy"), a guide to using the Internet; Hofstetter says: "Because the Net cannot see racial differences, age, sex, or physical handicaps, it doesn't discriminate. Except, perhaps, against the unconnected, because in an information society, to be cut off from the Internet is to be disenfranchised." ("Internet Literacy," Irwin McGraw-Hill)

IRS LIKELY TO FALL SHORT OF Y2K FIX

The Internal Revenue Service says its mainframe hardware and software probably will be Year 2000-compliant, but it hasn't developed a fix for its desktop PCs yet. Of the agency's 88,000 computer programs, 13,000 have been retired, and 40,000 have been fixed, leaving 35,000 scheduled to be upgraded by January 1999. A large percentage of the agency's mainframes are being replaced as part of the effort, but that still leaves about 1,000 mid-size computers and 130,000 PCs to bring into compliance. An anonymous congressional source says the picture is still pretty bleak, noting that IRS refund checks come from the Treasury, where "none of the mission-critical systems have been fixed yet." (TechWeb 27 Feb 98)

NEWTON FALLS TO EARTH

Saying it wants to focus all its efforts on extending the Macintosh operating system, Apple is giving up on its Newton handheld computer, as well as the eMate laptop computer that had been designed with the education market in mind. Although the Newton had to suffer such indignities as lampoons in the

Doonesbury cartoon strip, it is credited with leading the way for a number of today's handheld devices based on Microsoft's Windows CE software. Referring to 3Com and other companies that manufacture such products, industry analyst Ira Machefsky says: "All of these guys benefited from Apple's mistakes." (San Jose Mercury News 27 Feb 98)

EUROPEANS TELL U.S. TO INCLUDE THEM IN INTERNET PLANNING
A meeting of the European Union concluded with a warning that Europe does not want to be excluded from planning the future direction of the Internet; the warning was in response to an American "green paper" that proposed a new arrangement for managing domain names on the Internet (such as ".com", ".org.", and adding new ones). The EU said the U.S. proposals would "in the name of the globalisation and privatisation of the Internet, seem to consolidate permanent U.S. jurisdiction over the Internet as a whole." (Financial Times 27 Feb 98)

GATES SAYS GOVERNMENT ACTIONS HAMPERS MICROSOFT'S ABILITY TO INNOVATE

Microsoft chief executive Bill Gates says that if the Justice Department prevents the company from adding new features to its Windows software, Microsoft will lose its ability to remain a technology industry leader. Gates argues: "It's hard to say that you're going to compromise on your ability to innovate in Windows. If I can't put Internet support in Windows, then Windows will fail. If I can't put speech recognition into Windows, Windows will fail. You know, our path is to make Windows better. If we can't innovate in our products, then you know we will be replaced." (Washington Post 3 Mar 98)

COMPUTER SCIENCES SEEKS "WHITE KNIGHT"

After officially rejecting a hostile takeover bid by Computer Associates International, Computer Sciences Corp. says it will "explore and consider all alternatives available to the company which may provide greater value to stockholders" than CA's \$108-per-share offer. The company says it will entertain offers for an acquisition, a merger, or another other arrangement with a third party or "white knight." Computer Sciences is also considering offering additional shares to the public or taking on debt, both of which would make it more costly for Computer Associates to pursue a deal. (Wall Street Journal 3 Mar 98)

MICROSOFT SOFTENS POSITION

Microsoft says it is revising agreements with about 12 U.S. and 30 European Internet service providers to allow them advertise and promote browsers other than Microsoft's own Internet Explorer. A company spokesman explained: "This change makes sense from a business perspective, and if it helps to alleviate any potential government concerns, then it's a change we're happy to make." (Washington Post 2 Mar 98)

WHERE IS A FANCY LAPTOP JUST ANOTHER BAG?

ON DELTA AIRLINES

Delta Air Lines will begin counting laptop computers as carry-on baggage covered by its two-bag limit per passenger rule. The change, which does not apply to the Delta east coast shuttle, will take effect 15 April of this year. (San Jose Mercury News 3 Mar 98)

OLIVETTI SELLS COMPUTER SERVICES SUBSIDIARY TO WANG

Olivetti S.p.A. is selling its computer services unit to Wang Laboratories for more than \$395 million in cash and securities. The subsidiary, Olsy S.p.A., designs and installs computer systems for banks and public institutions in Europe. Olivetti has been following a strategy of shedding businesses not directly related to its focus on telecommunications. (New York Times 3 Mar 98)

HIGH-TECH PARTNERSHIPS URGED

Speakers at a recent meeting sponsored by the American Electronics Association and the International Business Forum urged high-tech start-ups to look beyond traditional venture capital companies when seeking funding. In addition, to angel investors, licensing technology, and participating in a sale/lease-back of property or equipment, companies should think about partnering with academic institutions. "One of the greatest resources in technology development is in the universities in national laboratories," says the director of the Lester Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation at the University of California, Berkeley's Haas School of Business. "They have all this technology that ends up dying on the shelves." (Electronic Buyer's News 3 Mar 98)

UPS GETS INTO ELECTRONIC SHIPPING

United Parcel Service of America is teaming up with Tumbleweed Software and NetDox Inc. to offer secure electronic document delivery via the Internet. Tumbleweed and NetDox already offer Internet-based document delivery, but the new service will be marketed under the UPS name. (Wall Street Journal 4 Mar 98)

LUCENT TECHNOLOGY SPEEDS DATA OVER LIGHT

New optical technology from Lucent Technologies will give fiber optic networks a boost, moving the equivalent of 90,000 sets of encyclopedias per second, according to company sources. The technology, called dense wavelength division multiplexers (DWDMs) acts like a prism to increase by an order of magnitude the number of light streams capable of carrying data. In addition, DWDMs don't need to go through the extra step of translating the light signal into an electrical signal in order to pass through switches. "This technology will take off really fast, almost as fast as Cabbage Patch dolls," says the director of strategy for Lucent's Optical Networking unit. (Investor's Business Daily 4 Mar 98)

COMPUTER SCIENCES SUES TO BLOCK BID

Computer Sciences Corp. has filed a lawsuit to block a hostile takeover attempt by Computer Associates International. The suit accuses CA of illegally obtaining trade secrets about Computer Sciences, including confidential information about earnings, sales, profits and financial results, from investment banker Bear, Stearns. CA calls the allegations "totally unfounded and without merit." Bear, Stearns was involved in negotiating a client's withdrawal from a seven-year partnership with Computer Sciences last year. (New York Times 4 Mar 98)

CELL PHONES CAN INTERFERE WITH AUTO SYSTEMS

Carmakers have known for a while that talking on a cell phone while driving can cause accidents, but now research shows that wireless phones can disrupt anti-lock braking and other

electronic systems. For instance, Mercedes Benz warns that the electromagnetic radiation emitted by the microchips in wireless phones can disable its Babysmart toddler restraint seat, which automatically switches off the passenger side air bag when a child is sitting up front. "As far as we know, no injury or death has resulted from interference between wireless phones and other radio-frequency emitting devices," says an AT&T Wireless Services spokeswoman, but some late model owner's manuals contain special warnings regarding the problem. (USA Today 4 Mar 98)

GIRLS WILL BE GIRLS

Computer software designer Brenda Laurel says character counts in computer games for girls: "When we asked girls whether they liked the computer games that were available to them at the time -- this research was happening between 1992 and 1995 -- their responses were typically negative. And when we asked them why, the reason was typically because they were 'boring.' I had expected a different answer. I had expected to hear 'they're creepy' or 'they're violent.' When we probed on that, the reasons we heard were that the characters are not interesting -- in fact the characters are so uninteresting that you can't even make up stories about them. You can't fantasize a life for one of the X-men, for example." (New York Times 5 Mar 98)

CHIP-TRACKING DEVICE COULD FOIL THIEVES

The Electronic Industries Association has adopted technology from Data Matrix that enables chipmakers to mark each semiconductor with a microscopic code that identifies the vendor and includes individual serial numbers. Chip thieves won't be able to remove the code without ripping off the casings, which in most cases would destroy the chips. The new technology won't wipe out the black market for stolen chips, but will give honest makers of PCs and other electronic devices a way of checking to make sure the chips they use are legitimate. (Business Week 9 Mar 98)

FEDERAL PROSECUTORS INDICT INTERNET GAMBLING OPERATORS

Federal prosecutors in New York indicted 14 operators of offshore companies for using phone lines for the purposes of illegal gambling activities. All 14 are American. The government says it is not charging bettors for using the sites but hopes that the indictment will serve as warning that such activities are illegal. (New York Times 5 Mar 98)

CORPORATE WEB SITES NEED BROAD APPEAL, SPEEDY GRAPHICS

A recent report by Shelley Taylor & Associates, based in Palo Alto, Calif., says that only three of the 100 Web sites it inspected -- those of AT&T, Bell Atlantic and Sun Microsystems -- managed to serve the needs of diverse groups, including investors, customers and potential employees. Most corporate Web sites focused too narrowly on one type of visitor, tarnishing the company's image in the eyes of other visitors. The group also found that many of the Web sites were painfully slow and badly organized, and that information took far too long to download. Often these negatives are the result of trying too hard -- packing the Web site full of glitzy graphics that may impress a few visitors with time on their hands, but annoying hundreds of others. (The Economist 28 Feb 98)

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Kids Computing Corner
Frank Sereno, Editor
fsereno@streport.com

Hello?? Is anybody out there?? Frank will be back next week.

Special Notice!! STR Infofile File format for Articles

File Format for STReport

All articles submitted to STReport for publication must be sent in the following format. Please use the format requested. Any files received that do not conform will not be used. The article must be in an importable word processor format for Word 6.0 and/or Word Perfect 7.. The margins are .05" left and 1.0" Monospaced fonts are not to be used. Please use proportional fonting only and at Twelve (12) points.

- '• No Indenting on any paragraphs!!
- '• No Indenting of any lines or "special gimmicks"
- '• No underlining!
- '• Columns shall be achieved through the use of tabs only. Or, columns in Word or Word Perfect format. Do NOT, under any circumstances, use the space bar.
- '• Most of all.. PLEASE! No ASCII "ART"!!
- '• There is no limits as to size, articles may be split into two if lengthy
- '• Actual Artwork should be in GIF, PCX, JPG, TIF, BMP, WMF file formats
- '• Artwork (pictures, graphs, charts, etc.) should be sent along with the article separately
- '• Please use a single font in an article. TTF Times New Roman 12pt. is preferred. (VERY Strong Hint)

If there are any questions please use either E-Mail or call. On another note. the ASCII version of STReport is fast approaching the "end of the line" As the major Online Services move away from ASCII.. So shall STReport. All in the name of progress and improved readability. The amount of reader mail expressing a preference for HTML as opposed to our Adobe PDF enhanced issue is running approximately 11 to 1 over the PDF edition. Cited are size, graphic quality and speed of download. I might add however, the requests for our issues to be done in HTML far outnumber both PDF and ascii. HTML is now a reality. On our web download page is a selection of HTML. As you can see, STReport will not be caught in the old, worn out "downward compatibility dodge" we must move forward.

If, however, the ASCII readership remains as high as we see it now, you may rest assured. ASCII will stay. Right now, STReport is offered on a number of closed major corporate Intranets as "required" Monday Morning reading.. Our ascii readers have nothing to worry themselves about. It looks like it is here to stay.

Many grateful thanks in advance for your enthusiastic co-

operation and input.
Ralph F. Mariano, Editor
rmariano@streport.com
STReport International Online Magazine

Version 1.51

A conversational review..

By Ralph F. Mariano

What do you mean what the heck is a conversational review?? To put it bluntly, I HATE reviews that are clogged with Techno-Jargon. So, what I do is talk about the product, my experiences with the product, my observations of the product being put to use by others and finally, a summation of all interested parties' opinions and impressions of the product. I used to do the dry, overloaded types of reviews. Soon I discovered they were boring me to tears. Naturally, they had to be doing the same thing to our readers. So, here goes.

During the course of my everyday travels, to my various accounts, I have been constantly hearing about the need for a program that;

- '• Had a sophisticated calendaring solution. Integrated yet would be configurable for selected individuals
- '• Offered Daily Planning for individual people on the intranet
- '• Had "PopUp" notification of phone messages with archiving and post it type notes that could be sent across the net to selected individuals.
- '• Was fully networked
- '• Would offer Group online discussions
- '• Would have Email distribution

There is so much to cover with this program that I am planning to do this in informative, easy reading segments. Probably five or six. OfficeTalk is a program that meets every one of the needs mentioned above. Now comes the good part. The Office Talk evaluation package is geared to shine with as little as two or, up to as many users as your network can handle. Each of the areas mentioned above will be covered in detail as go along.

It has logins for each and every person on the net and of course, passwords too. You also have a "supervisor" mode which allows for as many as deemed needed to offer supervisory skills. Next Week we shall begin our graphical coverage. by that I mean "screen shots of each area we are discussing. They say one picture is worth a thousand words. (who is "they") .. See you next week.

Classics & Gaming Section
Editor Dana P. Jacobson
dpj@streport.com

From the Atari Editor's Desk "Saying it like it is!"
Well, it's been a fun-packed week! No, definitely no "whining" this week about the weather or other problems. It's just been one of those weeks - not bad but not terrific either.

The good news is that our puppy (did I mention his name is "Butkus", named after the football player due to his largess) "survived" puppy class this past Monday. And actually, so did all of the owners! No catastrophes, so that was a plus! He did okay, but he should have "performed" better. At least we hadn't been banned from attending again!

The industry news segment of STReport is still a problem, but slowly being resolved. My original online source has drastically changed its format (hence the assumed reason behind my access problems lately). What used to be a daily listing of 6-10 top stories has turned into a listing of three or four hundred articles - all plastered with copyright and no re-print clauses. Even if the "Fair Use" laws allow us to still use these articles (we don't take credit for the stories), the work involved to sift through these articles is immense. So, we're working toward various other online sources providing text articles. One potential source was passed along to me just yesterday, hence the reduced section this week. We hope to get this segment back in action soon.

In the meantime, the single Atari-related news bit comes from the Usenet, from a voice from the past, with a humorous [typical] announcement.

Until next time...

Hiya Dave.... How you IZ?? Ralph...

"Dave" Retires Again

From: David Small <dsmall@well.com>

Date: 3 Mar 1998

Hiya. I'm 39 now, and as I did when I was 29, I'd like to go ahead and announce my retirement (again). I always wanted to do this. Of course, last time I announced this, I got bored within two months and did a Mac emulator.

But for a few glorious days here, I'm retired. Until.

<grin>

Dave Small

p.s. There is another Dave Small who does a lot of computer Net work. dsmall@well.com is me. dms80111@aol.com is me (okay, okay, check out incomplete but working <http://members.aol.com/~dms80111> for pictures of the now 6' 2" Eric and Jamie...

Anywho, if you could not email the other Dave Small, I may live to reach 40.

Gaming Section

"Crash Bandicoot"! Ubi Soft News!

Playstation Ads! Sony Web Site!

And More!

Industry News STR Game Console NewsFile - The Latest Gaming News!

PlayStation's Crash Bandicoot Franchise Success Story

FOSTER CITY, CALIF. (March 3) BUSINESS WIRE - March 3, 1998 - 5 Million Units Sold of Crash Bandicoot and Crash Bandicoot 2: Cortex Strikes Back. In less than two years since Crash Bandicoot(TM) first debuted exclusively for the PlayStation(TM) game console, Sony Computer Entertainment's popular videogame

icon has hit legendary status by selling 5 million units, becoming one of the most successful character-based PlayStation franchises in the world. In addition to these staggering worldwide sales figures, Crash Bandicoot is the only franchise in PlayStation history to have both the original game and its sequel surpass the one million-unit mark in North America. The following is a breakdown of Crash Bandicoot and Crash Bandicoot 2:

Cortex Strikes Back(TM) life-to-date sales figures as of February 27, 1998:

Crash Bandicoot (released in 1996)

- North America: 1.5 million units
- Japan: 610,000 units
- Europe: 725,000 units

Crash Bandicoot 2: Cortex Strikes Back (released in 1997)

- North America: 1 million units
- Japan: 800,000 units
- Europe: 340,000 units

"The phenomenal worldwide sales of the Crash Bandicoot series clearly illustrates that this franchise is one of the most high-profile and successful character-based properties among videogames today," said Andrew House, vice president, marketing, Sony Computer Entertainment America. "Crash's popular appeal to next-generation gamers of all ages continues to grow as PlayStation's unmatched leadership in the videogame industry also escalates."

The evolution of the Crash Bandicoot franchise is due to the combined talents of Universal Interactive Studios, Inc. (UIS), a division of Universal Studios, and Naughty Dog, Inc., a Santa Monica, Calif. based game developer. Their partnership with Sony Computer Entertainment America brings consumers the hottest character-based PlayStation franchise.

"The Crash Bandicoot franchise assembles some of the best Hollywood talent in a variety of fields," said Mark Cerny, president, Universal Interactive Studios, Inc. and producer of the Crash Bandicoot series. "With Crash 2, celebrated actor Clancy Brown -- best known as Kurgan in the film 'Highlanders' and a regular star on the hit television show, ER -- lent his vocal talent for the infamous character, Dr. Neo Cortex; an encore performance by Mark Mothersbaugh -- of Mutato Muzika(TM) and founding member/lead singer of the band Devo -- provided a hit musical track; and Hollywood animator Charles Zembillas, as well as Joe Pearson, teamed up in the development and creation of the Crash Bandicoot character and supporting cast."

"We are extremely proud of Crash Bandicoot's phenomenal success to date," said Jason Rubin, president, Naughty Dog, Inc. "With the first Crash, we were largely focused on creating a game whose character -- Crash Bandicoot -- would stand up to the challenges of other videogame icons, popularized by his quick wit and charm. We also wanted to captivate audiences by delivering a game that provided compelling graphics, state-of-the-art 3D action, multiple challenges and fun. Crash 2 brought different challenges and opportunities, as the phenomenal success of the first Crash reached stellar status as one of PlayStation's best-selling

platform titles of 1996. Thankfully, we were able to deliver the type of sequel that consumers wanted."

The popular Crash Bandicoot franchise has also shown its vast entertainment and marketing appeal, with Crash Bandicoot 2 recently appearing on such hit television shows as FOX's "90210"; on the backs of more than 33 million boxes of Post brand cereals; and also in nationally award-winning print and television ads.

The Sony Web Site Takes Over #1 Entertainment Site Position

The Sony Web site has become the #1 entertainment Web site and is #16 among all sites accessed from home PCs, according to the January 1998 report from Media Metrix, the PC Meter Company and leader in new media audience measurement, it was announced today by Sony Online Ventures Inc. (SOVI). The Sony Web site (located at www.sony.com) also achieved top rankings within the news, information and entertainment category among key audiences, including the much-coveted female demographic.

This latest rise in rankings can be attributed to several factors: the success of Sony's online entertainment network, The with its new fall/winter programming such as College JEOPARDY! Online; increased traffic to other Sony Web sites; and new online and print advertising campaigns. "The latest rankings prove that Sony has delivered on providing a fun, entertaining experience online, and, in a short time, has clearly become an entertainment leader on the Web," said Lisa Simpson, Senior Vice President, Sony Online Ventures Inc. "With 'The Station' in particular, we've combined branded content and high entertainment value to attract both the core online and mainstream consumer audiences, including women of all age groups."

The Sony Web site experienced a nearly 60% growth in audience reach (from 4.9% in December 1997 to 7.8% in January 1998), and increased unique users by 1.1 million, rising to 2.9 million, making it one of the fastest growing sites within the news, information and entertainment category, as well as on the Web overall. The Sony Web site also ranked first among the top 10 in its category reaching the elusive female demographic including ages 18-24, 25-34, 35-44, and total overall female audiences. The site was also #1 among males ages 18-24 and #5 among females ages 55 and over.

SOVI reports that The Station added more than 90,000 new members in January, one of its highest registration rates to date. And The Station, along with sites for Sony Music Entertainment, Sony Pictures Entertainment and Sony Electronics, Inc., each experienced an approximate 20% increase in traffic in January 1998, contributing to an upward trend for the Sony Web site. In fact, Media Metrix reports an 80% growth in the Sony Web site's audience reach since October 1997.

A large contributor to this success has been the continually growing traffic on The Station@sony.com, which offers strong branded entertainment content such as JEOPARDY! Online and Wheel of Fortune Online. Since October, The Station has added the College JEOPARDY! Online tournament; Tanarus, its first subscription-based game; and game shows from BoxerJam Productions, the first third-party content to appear on The Station.

The Media Metrix reach measurement is based on the percent of unduplicated Web-active individuals that visited the Sony Web site from a home PC at least once in a given month. Each reach point increase represents a significant increase in the number of visitors to the Sony Web site.

With its patented PC Meter technology, Media Metrix has developed

the standard for measuring real-time, actual usage of the entire digital universe, including the World Wide Web, proprietary online services, computer software, hardware and other new interactive applications.

UK's Europress Teams With Germany's Ubi Soft

STOCKPORT, CHESHIRE, ENGLAND, 1998 MAR 4 (Newsbytes) -- By Sylvia Dennis, Newsbytes. Europress, the games and educational software company, has announced it is partnering with Ubi Soft in Germany. The aim of the linkup is to give both software houses a stronger position in the European software industry, officials claim. Under the terms of the contract, Ubi Soft Entertainment will distribute local (German) language versions of Europress' range of entertainment packages in Austria, Germany, and Switzerland, extending the Europress range, it is claimed, across the whole of Europe.

New titles due to be released from Ubi Soft Germany through the Europress linkup, include a plane racing game called Plane Crazy, and a futuristic motorbike game called XLR8 and Rally PlayStation. Becky Walker, German territory manager at Europress, claims that Ubi Soft is a key partner for the important German speaking territories. Europress appears to be going through a period of partnering with foreign country specialists to gain access to new markets, Newsbytes notes. Last month the software company entered the Chinese arena, courtesy of a joint venture with Beijing Wave Info-Tech, a Chinese firm.

Known as Europress China, the new division has been created with the support of the State Science and Technology Commission of China and will allow, for the first time, a British software publisher to enter the Chinese market with a wide range of software. At the time, Michael Meakin, managing director of Europress and chief executive of the new venture, said that the deal is the first real joint venture partnership to have been established between British and Chinese companies in the software industry. Europress' Web site is at

THQ Slams New "Ray Tracers" Combat Racing Game

CALABASAS, CALIF. (March 5) BUSINESS WIRE - March 5, 1998 - With the smell of burnt rubber, THQ Inc. has driven "Ray Tracers" onto store shelves in the United States. The new 3-D combat racing game, developed by Taito Corp. for use with the Sony PlayStation, has been shipped to retailers for a suggested retail price of \$49.95.

In "Ray Tracers," destructive driving is the only way to successfully complete your missions. Players speed through six courses, including sewers, underground tunnels, treacherous canyons and grassy retreats, battering and battling enemy vehicles and clever bosses for points and survival at every turn. "'Ray Tracers' is the latest Japanese game THQ has identified as having the potential to do well in the U.S. market," said Brian J. Farrell, president and chief executive officer, THQ. "We hope this will mark the beginning of another successful relationship for THQ with a top Japanese developer like Taito."

Playing "Ray Tracers," gamers speed along the streets of Rain City in one of four racing cars with Cyndy Gibson to help her complete her revenge against Kaiser and his Black Kaiser gang who murdered her scientist father. The four race cars of the Tracer Team feature armor and speed enhancements, and represent the only challenge to Black Kaiser's reign of destruction.

Compete in either Chase mode or Time Attack mode. To begin, players select their identity from the Tracer Team roster. Choose Spanker (Jalta "The Blood Red Stallion" Lang), a maniac behind

the wheel who was lured to the team by the promise of driving the baddest car on the streets; Hawk (Sleeteel Raze), a driver desperate to avenge the death of his girlfriend at the hands of Kaiser himself; Lynx (Asuka Saito), a precise, technical driver in search of her missing sister; or Buffalo (Raymondo Blody), a former soldier discharged for misconduct, who knows nothing but fighting.

In Chase Mode, challenge the Black Kaiser armed racing gang to a test of speed and survival. Help Cyndy and Team Tracer stop Black Kaiser by colliding into and destroying their vehicles. Gamers must catch up to the Black Kaiser gang's vehicles and destroy them before time runs out by smashing them with their vehicle. A powerful Boss that requires many more hits than the standard enemy cars waits at the end of each level. The Time Attack mode allows enthusiasts to choose a racecourse, and an optional rival car in a race against the clock. Each of the modes features a gear shift select option which enables the player to shift gears manually or automatically.

Extensive TV Advertising Campaign for PlayStation Launched
FOSTER CITY, CALIF. (March 4) BUSINESS WIRE - March 4, 1998 - Tomb Raider's Popular Videogame Heroine Lara Croft Stars in New PlayStation Campaign. Fueled by a record-breaking year for the PlayStation(TM) game console, including millions of new PlayStation(TM) fans across the nation, Sony Computer Entertainment America today launched a multi-million dollar television advertising campaign to further spread the news about its value-priced "Greatest Hits" series. Tomb Raider, the most recent addition to the "Greatest Hits" line-up, will be featured, along with its virtual star Lara Croft, in the new PlayStation national TV campaign, which kicks-off this month. The campaign includes network television placements during "3rd Rock from the Sun," "The X-Files," "Seinfeld" and "The David Letterman Show;" syndicated programs, "The Simpsons," "Married with Children," "COPS," and "Martin;" as well as buys on cable stations in more than 50 major markets across the country. The "Greatest Hits" Series features a distinctive roster of PlayStation titles that have already proven to be all-time favorites among consumers and carry a MSRP of \$24.99, with many retailers advertising product at \$19.99. Among the 22 titles in the series are: Crash Bandicoot(TM), Jet Moto(TM), NFL GameDay(TM), Twisted Metal(R), NHL FaceOff(TM), Tekken(TM), Battle Arena Toshinden(TM), WarHawk(TM) and new inductee, the original Tomb Raider(TM).

"Supporting PlayStation's phenomenal success in 1997, this TV campaign for the Greatest Hits line is just a small example of what we have to offer in 1998," said Andrew House, vice president, marketing, Sony Computer Entertainment America. "Lara Croft's appeal has already attracted to the PlayStation a broad range in consumers of all demographics. What better star to promote the value of the Greatest Hits Series than one of the videogame industry's most popular heroines."

Playing off the vast appeal of the Lara Croft character, the ad begins with unique role-reversal as a father drags his son out of bed and to the local mall to purchase a PlayStation game console and a couple of popular "Greatest Hits" game titles like Crash Bandicoot and Jet Moto. As the ad unfolds the ironic twist regarding the father's true motivation is revealed -- he wanted to get a glimpse of the girl of his dreams, Tomb Raider's Lara Croft, at an exclusive autograph signing. In the end, both the father and son leave the mall with what they wanted, Lara Croft,

some "Greatest Hits" game titles and a PlayStation game console. In September 1997, Sony Computer Entertainment America signed an exclusive deal with Eidos Interactive for the Tomb Raider franchise, featuring leading character Lara Croft, to be exclusive to the PlayStation for game consoles. The first product released under this agreement was Tomb Raider 2 in November 1997.

Analysts Forecast Big Growth Year For Console/PC Market
Mar 4, 1998 (MULTIMEDIA WIRE, Vol. 5, No. 42) -- The installed base of 32- and 64-bit game consoles is nearing mass-market numbers after strong sales in 1996-1997, and it's against that multisystem platform base that analysts are predicting a big growth year for interactive game software. "We're forecasting a 55% jump in console revenue (32- and 64-bit software) to \$3.4b," says David Cole, an analyst with DFC Intelligence. DFC is forecasting console sales of \$3.6b in 1999. The PC market, typically characterized by slower, steady growth, will climb to \$1.7b in 1998 sales, a 21.4% bump, Cole says. The U.S. interactive entertainment market as a whole reached a record \$5.5b in sales last year (MMW, Jan. 27). PlayStation and N64 are forecast to sell about 12m units worth some \$1.4b in the U.S., based on an estimated \$120 average cost per unit. 1998 is going to be a good software year because hardware has done so well the last two years, agrees James Lin, an analyst at Wedbush Morgan Securities. "The Sony [SNE] PlayStation has tremendous legs. Sony has put about \$100m into marketing the platform, and that investment is paying off."

N64 sales volume has created a much more "visible" market for N64 software, but on the consumer and developer side, Lin says. A visible hardware base creates more excitement in the market. "Having two systems out there doing well, plus the sub-\$1,000 PC adds up to another great year." Even Electronic Arts [ERTS] is jumping on the N64 bandwagon in 1998 because the company sees the growth in the segment, says Rob Fagin, an analyst with Oppenheimer & Co.

One area worth watching is whether N64 or PlayStation will emerge as the clear market leader, or if they'll continue splitting the market, analysts say. Earlier this year, Sony said PlayStation controls 49.2% of the North American console market (MMWire, Jan 29). Both systems appeal to different market segments. The PlayStation appeals to the 20-something marketplace and N64 to the pre-teen crowd. "The question is whether Nintendo can appeal to an older audience and PlayStation can make inroads into the younger gamer segments," according to Cole.

ONLINE WEEKLY STReport OnLine The wires are a hummin'!

PEOPLE... ARE TALKING

Compiled by Joe Mirando
jmirando@streport.com

Hidi ho friends and neighbors. Our friend El Nino has graced my part of the country with above average temperatures. Although many are simply content to enjoy the early springtime weather, I can't help wondering what price we will end up paying for it. You seem as in many other areas, we rely on reservoirs for our water supply. Although the overall amount of precipitation may remain the same (and even that remains to be seen), a good winter's snow is much more beneficial for reservoirs because it is not 'time released' as rain is. Normally, when winter gives way to spring

and the snow melts, it does so fairly quickly. Much less moisture is lost to evaporation and absorption into the ground. The ground quickly becomes saturated and the excess runs off into our reservoirs and goes a long way toward sustaining us through the rest of the year. We have had little snow here this year and reservoirs are not expected to be at their usual level for the foreseeable future.

I realize that when compared to the west and southeast we have little to complain about, but that's my point. There is no such thing as isolation anymore. We are all irrevocably intertwined with everything else. Lest this sound like a poem from the early 1970's, remember that the phenomenon known as El Nino is half way around the world from Connecticut (the state in which I live) and yet we have felt the effects well enough that I have taken the time to write about it here.

Interestingly enough, I see the same type of effects in the computer world. What catches on with one platform sooner or later carries over to others. Just about everyone these days knows about hypertext, or at least understands the principal. Hypertext is what allows you to click on a word or picture on the world wide web and magically be transported to another 'page'. Many people think that this wondrous ability was born when Microsoft released their help file creator. Others remember farther back to the Macintosh. Very few remember back even farther when a program called Zoom Racks was released on the Atari ST. That's right, hypertext was seen on the Atari first! From what I've heard, the author even had copyrights to 'hypertext', but Apple decided that they wanted it for their own and the author was without the resources to wage a protracted court battle (Apple's favorite kind at the time). It just goes to show... what goes around comes around.

You didn't actually think you'd get away without hearing a sermon from me twice in a row, did you? <grin> Well, let's take a look at what's going on over at Delphi.

From Delphi's Atari Advantage Forum

"Earl 5" asks for information:

"I am giving my Atari ST to a friend who wants to know if you can access the www with it. I doesn't have a HD anymore and only 1 meg

RAM. So he would have to run it from a floppy, is it possible. I haven't used my ST for some time now."

Greg Evans tells Earl:

"Yes, it's probably possible but ugly. CAB (the browser) relies on having a cache for fast www page access so that would be fairly crippled on a floppy."

Earl asks Greg:

"Where could one pick up this CAB program you mentioned, just in case he decides to add a HD?"

Our own Atari Editor Dude, Dana Jacobson tells Earl:

"CAB and STiK and various CAB modules can be found right here. Just check out the Recent Arrivals Database and do a search with the Keyword: CAB"

Greg Evans jumps back in and adds:

"Grab the demo of CAB 2.0 here on Delphi. It works with frames (though doesn't allow resizing) and the only thing not working in the demo are hotlists. The current version 2.5 is faster and handles frames better."

Jim Collins of chroMAGIC Software tells Earl:

"I believe a working demo of CAB 2.0 is available here on Delphi."

If not, then you can get it from my web site <http://www.chromagic.com/> . It is functional, but it has an "ad" that pops up and the hotlist isn't save-able, at least that's what I remember about it. You will also need to get a copy of STik or STing which ARE available here on Delphi. STik currently support SLIP only and STing supports SLIP and PPP. The current commercial version is available from many retailers. It offers some advantages over the demo of the 2.0 version and comes with it's own SLIP/PPP driver. For more info on the commercial version, check out my website as I have an entire page devoted to CAB 2.5 with links to the page of the author of CAB."

Earl tells Jim and Greg:

"The problem is that I access Delphi thru my Internet ISP which is quite different and I don't seem to be able to access the files database that way. I do have NetTerm, but don't have the foggiest idea how to set it up for delphi. Sometimes progress works in reverse. :) Was wanting to check a previous message from someone wanting to sell his hard drive...haven't figured out how to do that either...I have asked Dana to help me in this area."

On the subject of viruses, "Turbo" Nick posts:

"With the prevalence of viruses (on other platforms), it's tempting to think of the whole thing as part of a racket worthy of C____, the villain of the latest James Bond movie ("Tomorrow Never Dies"). In the movie, he talks with one of his underlings about a s/w package his outfit is releasing that's full of bugs, forcing users to upgrade for years (forever?). He could just as easily (and perhaps more appropriately given his insidiousness) plotted to release software viruses upon the world, and then clean up selling the anti-virus program(s)."

We don't know of anyone like that, do we? <grin> Meanwhile, Al Horton asks for info:

"I had a customer ask me about what programs that he will need to access the Internet on his ST. Could someone please list the programs and versions of what a person needs to access the Internet (and perhaps a REAL short note on what each program does or is needed for)? The computer setup would be: 1040STe with 4megs, SC1224 monitor, Megafile 30, Supra 14.4 Modem, TOS 1.62." Since I've been doing quite a bit of digging on the subject I tell Al:

"First, you need a browser. The best option out there is CAB (Crystal Atari Browser). There are two versions available in the library here... Version 1.5, which is freeware now, and the demo version of CAB 2.0 which allows you to do everything the commercial version (2.5 and up) does, except that it displays a 30 second message when starting and quitting. The commercial versions can be purchased from several vendors including chroMagic. Next, you need the TCP/IP and dialer software. In my opinion, the best option right now is STinG by Peter Rottengatter. It handles both SLIP and PPP protocols, whereas STiK handles only SLIP at the moment. Both of these packages include a dialer program. They are also both shareware/freeware. The latest version of STinG is 1.12. Now that you've got CAB and STinG, you need the 'overlay' file that transfers info between the two. This is CAB.OVL it simply goes either in the CAB folder or the CAB\MODULES folder and does its job without any further intervention on your part. The current version is 1.2805 and should also be available here.

Once you get used to the WWW, you soon want to explore the other options on the internet. NEWSie handles email (works great for accessing my email here), UseNet NewsGroups, and FTP (File

Transfer Protocol). I'm very happy with NEWSie and highly recommend it. The current ersion is 0.86 and is available here. Once you get connected to the 'net, the first place to stop is Mille Babic's home page at: <http://heml.passagen.se/atari> Setup of CAB is fairly easy, STiK setup is moderately easy, and STinG can be a bear. There are folks here who have spent months messing with it and never had any luck. Once all the programs are installed and configured, it's a really slick setup. I have a friend who was president of our User's Group for years, but decided to jump ship to the powerMAC a few years ago. I showed him STinG/CAB/Newsie a while back and he was blown away. Guess Its him, huh? <G>

Oh, you might want to know a few things about CAB... Version 1.5 (the free one) doesn't handle frames. The version 2.0 demo does. Version 2.5 (the most current here in the U.S.) is nice, but there is a version 2.6 available in Germany now, with 2.7 on the way. 2.7 will allow the use of cookies. Unfortunately upgrades/updates to CAB are not free. My recommendation is to start with the demo version (2.0) and see what it includes and what it can do.

I'm sure that there'll be question a-plenty. This forum has some of the best folks to ask, so don't be shy." Having finally run up against a brick wall on my own, I ask for help with fonts:

"Does anyone know if it's possible to use any of the fonts that were usable with Warp9 under NVDI? I've got several 'FNT' fonts that I had grown quite used to with Warp9, but they don't load under NVDI. Is there any way I can convert them? It was my understanding that the Warp9 fonts were standard GEM format and I thought that NVDI would just pick 'em right up and use 'em without any trouble.... WRONG. frown"

Greg Evans jumps in and tells me:

"The Warp9 fonts are Degas fonts, not GDOS. I think Degas Elite came with a program to convert the FNT fonts to GDOS format. Anyone with a copy of DE can probably do the conversions for you. Did you use these for your desktop? I can't remember what Warp9 did with fonts."

"BlackJ" asks:

"Are ther any graphic card for the ST computers, cuase I would like to get more than 4 colors using CAB. You got to think though all that dithering has got to be extremly processor intensive."

Jim Collins tells BlackJ:

"Yes, there are several different graphics cards that have been manufactured over the years. However, they are all fairly pricey and hard to find now. Installation also varied between the different machines ranging from extremely difficult (i.e. trace cutting and other hacking/slashing) to simple "plug in cards". You are correct about dithering. The dithering process is a significant load on the processor. Running CAB in true color does noticably increase the speed of the graphics display.

Unless you run into a really good deal (i.e. finding a used card or complete system with card at a rummage sale at a near giveaway price or some similar good deal), it would probably be cheaper and easier to get a used Falcon and have a Nemesis board installed. It would certainly be EASIER to find a used Falcon and locate a Nemesis than finding working cards for the older systems. I have had MANY calls lately from people looking for graphics cards and they all tell me they have been looking and looking but not finding anything available.

Nima Montaser at Homa Systems House has different Nova cards in stock every now and then. However, if I remember correctly, he

only had Falcon Novas available the last time I checked. You can E-Mail him at nima@magmacom.com or call him at +1-613-722-0901. It can't hurt to check out what he currently has available."

BlackJ tells Jim:

"ouch.... I figured as much though. However a falcon or clone costs just about as much as a pc or mac though. 'Cuase the cheapest Flacon I ever seen was like 800 bucks."

Jim tells BlackJ:

"I have seen clean used Falcons complete with 14 Megs of RAM and an internal IDE drive sold for quite a bit less than that. If you look around and find someone dumping an entire system, you can often buy the guy out and then sell of the extra software and peripherals you don't want and, in some cases, end up with a free computer. Two of my friends have done this during the past year or so. One of them ended up having his Falcon cost about \$15 after he sold the extras and the other ended up MAKING about \$50 + keeping the Falcon after selling the extras. As always, your mileage may vary."

Well folks, that's it for this week. Tune in again next week, same time, same station, and be ready to listen to what they are saying when...

PEOPLE ARE TALKING

EDITORIAL QUICKIES

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five weeks old. But, we're here
and all is well. The crew
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